made provision of Rs. 18,600 crores (Rs. 17,800 crores under State Sector and Rs. 800 crores under Central Sector) during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) Urban water supply, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management are State subjects. As such, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and urban local bodies to plan, implement and provide adequate funds of the urban water supply, sewerage/drainage and solid waste management schemes. As of now Central assistance is being provided to different State Governments for implementation of water supply schemes under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census.

Vacancies of Engineers in CPWD

1971. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present sanction, deputation and projected strength of Executive Engineer (Civil), Superintending Engineer (Civil) in CPWD;

(b) the number of vacancies in each of the above posts;

(c) the number of regular and ad-hoc Executive Engineers (Civil) working at present in CPWD; and

(d) by when all the said vacancies are likely to be filled up by the CPWD authorities and all the ad-hoc Executive Engineers (Civil) regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: (a) and (b) The details are as under:—

	No. of sanctioned Strength in the Grade	No. of posts sanctioned for time bound Projects	No. of persons on deputation outside	No. of vacancies
Executive Engineer (Civil)	494	97	21	9
Superintending Engineer (Civil)	130	30	19	9

(c) No. of Executive Engineers-Regular-428Ad-hoc 155

(d) No time limit could be given as a number of cases are pending in courts/CAT on various issues connected with the regularisation of ad-hoc promotion of Executive Engineers.

Lowering of Interest Rate and Raising of Ceiling Limit on Housing Loans

1972. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering lowering the interest rate on housing loans, extending the period for repayment of such loans and raising the ceiling limit of such loans, with a view to encouraging the housing development; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Housing Finance is channeled to individuals through 29 Housing Finance Institutions regulated by National Housing Bank (NHB). The various HFIs are free to decide their own lending rates and other terms of financing of such loans keeping in view their cost of borrowings, demand for funds and other market related factors and do not need Government's permission to enhance or reduce these rates. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), a PSU under this Ministry has launched a retail financing scheme entitled ""HUDCO Niwas" in March 99 to provide direct loans to individuals for house construction. A comparative statement indicating the interest rates on various loan slabs at the time of introduction of the scheme and the ones now existing is given below:—

Loan Amount (Rs.)	Interest Rate (P.A.) (on monthly rest basis) (Current)	Interest Rate (% P.A.) (On monthly rest basis) (as on 9.3.99)
Upto 50,000/-	11.5%	12.00%
50,001 - 2,00,000	12.75%	13.50%
2,00,001 - 5,00,000	13.50%	14.50%
5,00,000 - 10,00,000	13.75%	15.00%
10,00,000 - 15,00,000	14.50%	15.50%
15,00,000 - 25,00,000	14.75%	—